



March 15, 2021

Senator Bill Dodd, Chair
Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 417 (Dodd. Alcoholic beverages: import) – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Dodd,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 417 because it reduces important license revenue to the state and expands the ability of the airline industry to cheaply truck in alcohol without an importer's license and accompanying controls.

It's difficult to see how this bill benefits the people or the state. It appears to benefit the airline industry at the expense of the state by allowing it to transport alcohol into the state without complying with existing law and paying license fees that the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control must have to enforce regulations to protect the state's residents and visitors. The 21st Amendment allows California to control alcohol imports, and the state should not concede that control to international airline companies – if airlines want to load up on alcohol before a flight from California, they should buy the alcohol in California, or obtain an importer's license to purchase and truck it in from out-of-state.

In addition, by allowing airlines to avoid paying an importer's license fee, SB 417 would reduce the cost of alcohol products, expand availability and encourage consumption by passengers on and off the aircraft. This would increase the threat of alcohol-related harm.

Finally, this is another of example of small deregulatory changes in alcohol control that open the door for wider decontrol. No doubt in future years trains and boats will ask for the same free pass to import alcohol without and importer's license.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California already suffers more annual alcohol-related harm than any other state: over 10,500 alcohol-related deaths, \$35 billion in total costs, \$14.5 billion in state costs. We respectfully ask that you stop this dangerous bill in your committee to prevent additional public health and safety harm.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lee Livingston".

Bruce Lee Livingston
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